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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001881

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/30/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [AF](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: NATO-AFGHANISTAN: DEMARCHE TO GOT ON ALLIED
CONTRIBUTIONS TO STAGE I ISAF EXPANSION

REF: STATE 068430

(U) Classified by Political-Military Affairs Counselor
Timothy A. Betts. Reasons: 1.5 (B and D).

1. (C) Pol-Mil Counselor delivered reftel demarche to MFA DDG for NATO and International Security Affairs Fatih Ceylan March 30. He said the USG strongly supports NATO's expansion of ISAF and SACEUR GEN Jones' statement that Allies must fill the critical shortfalls of the CJSOR before Stage I can be executed. It was also important that the Allies make every possible effort to fill the shortfalls by the time that NATO SYG De Hoop Scheffer attends the Berlin Donors Conference March 31. Pol-Mil counselor asked that Turkey specifically consider contributing personnel to a Role 2 and Casualty Staging Medical Unit in Kabul, providing dedicated aircraft to COMISAF, and deploying as soon as possible the three previously committed helicopters.

2. (C) Ceylan agreed it was important that NATO fulfill the Stage I shortfalls as soon as possible and that the NATO SYG "succeed" in Berlin March 31. That said, he said MFA needed to consult with the Turkish General Staff (TGS) before responding to our requests. Pol-Mil Counselor asked that the MFA stress to the TGS the urgency of the request. Ceylan concurred.

3. (C) On the Role 2 and Casualty Staging Medical Unit in Kabul, Ceylan said that TGS recently told the MFA that the Turkish military did not possess such a capability. TGS reportedly said it was in the process of procuring the capability, but did not indicate when it might be available. Ceylan added that TGS had instructed its military representative at SHAPE to so inform SHAPE after this issue was raised there. Ceylan said the MFA nevertheless would forward our request to TGS and request that TGS provide a formal response.

4. (C) Ceylan said that discussions between the Turkish and Luxembourg militaries on transporting the Turkish helicopters to/from Afghanistan were on-going. He understood that Luxembourg had agreed to take care of the cost of deploying/redeploying the helicopters to/from Afghanistan. In response to a question, Ceylan said he did not know whether the Turkish military still sought maintenance support for the helicopters. He noted that the MFA recently had asked TGS to provide an update of the discussions between the Turkish and Luxembourg militaries, and offered to brief us as soon as he hears back from TGS.
EDELMAN